In Loving Memory

Pest Control

2021 - 2025

SPEAK
RIOT GRRRL
FUCK
UP
SLUT♥PRIDE
AGINAL
BITCH
SEX, FEMINISM & ROCK 'N' ROLL

Pest Control

When we saw the emergence of the Riot Grrrl movement in the 1990s, a new space for female empowerment in the underground scene was created. But after the break up of the most influential bands such as Bikini Kill, this space slowly disintegrated.

But in 2023, Adelaide was introduced to Pest Control — an unstoppable, all female band, ready to rebel against their misogynistic environments. And they didn't hold back. They were loud and they were pissed off, ready to bring an unfiltered female sound to our city.

Founded by the band's drummer, Hannah, and bassist, Emilia, before bringing in vocalist, Tahlia, and guitarists, Alana and Beth, these women came with a clear goal — to fight.

"Emilia and I [Hannah] had some really shitty experiences in our university degree. We were both playing the saxophone at the time, and we just connected over the misogyny that we were dealing with. And it was a bucket list thing for both of us, to play in a punk band that mirrored Bikini Kill. So, she wanted to learn bass, I wanted to learn drums, and we were just like, should we fucking do it?"

And from the beginning of their formation, they made music that captured the shittier side of womanhood.

“A lot of our songs start as someone bitching about something,” Hannah explains. “We’d be fired up about something that pissed us off, spit out a few bars, write a cunty line, and go from there.”

The band entered with their first release, *Close Contact* in 2023 — a song that truly defined their style. Playing with the struggles of covid-19, they produced a hilariously raw and aggressive track that set the pace for their next releases. Following this with their next two singles, *Misogynistic Prick* and *BITCH* in 2024, their “fuck you” to the hate they’d experienced wasn’t ending. And now, releasing their first and final EP, they’ve saved the best until last.

Lucky 2 Have Me, released as an early single at the start of April, has become a lasting favourite for the band.

“I came up with that idea after I broke up with my ex, and I was experiencing my first crush again.” Hannah says, “And it was the most dysphoric experience. It was me just feeling crazy, because it was the first time I actually felt a desire for another person again, and then I brought some ideas to the girls, and everyone just worked to flesh them out.”

And for Alana, it’s reminiscent of the sounds she loves.

“There's one Arctic Monkeys song that I love — *505*. It's so chill, and then all of a sudden, the second chorus hits, it's like, wow. And I think that's the same reason I really like *Lucky.*

Despite the undeniable chemistry they’ve built, and the fanbase that they’ve inspired, life has taken each Pestie down a different path away from their punk rock lifestyle. And so, their new EP — originally intended to be another stepping stone in their discography — has become a homage to the empowerment they’ve instilled within Adelaide.

“It wasn't supposed to be our last” Beth admits. “We recorded it last year in June. It was just three of our favourite songs at the time — the huge

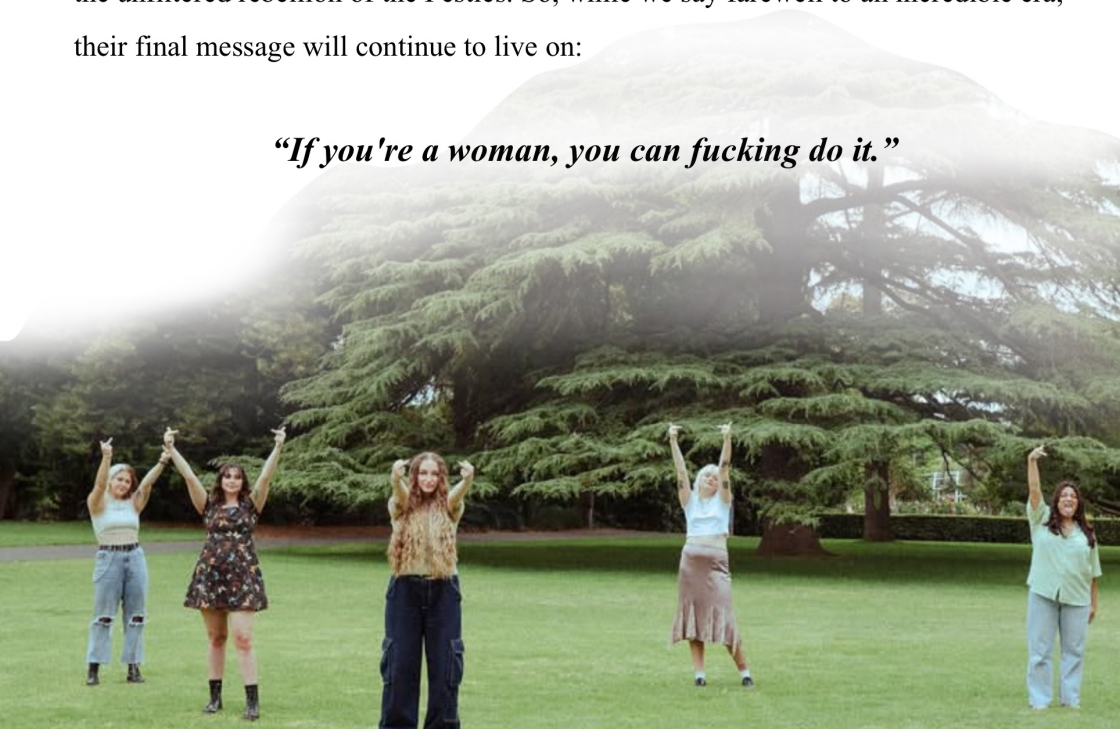
ones that everyone seemed to really like. And we were always supposed to go back in and record the remainder, but that never seemed to happen!”

And still, Pest Control has left an indelible mark upon the Adelaide scene, starting from their very first backyard gig. So, as we come to reach their final show, we — just like the members of Pest Control — are asked to reflect upon the mark they’ve made in our music scene.

“I think many of us can say that we put our everything into this for the last couple of years, and that's a lot. And it's gonna be really sad, but I find so much joy in knowing that the majority of people around us are people that love us. But, you know, everyone moves on eventually, to things that suit them better."

Pest Control was never just a band; it was a movement, an outlet, a testament to the power of all women. As clichéd as it is, punk truly does never die. And neither does the unfiltered rebellion of the Pesties. So, while we say farewell to an incredible era, their final message will continue to live on:

“If you're a woman, you can fucking do it.”



Lucky 2 Have Me

i hate crushes
do you like me or not?
fuck crushes
i'd rather lay here and rot

i hate crushes
in my room all alone
fuck crushes
i can't stop checking my phone

they're cute in real life i swear

i'm getting a fever
is it a dream?
i hope i don't see you
cos my hair isn't clean

i'm getting a fever
is it a dream?
why do you consume me?
you're everywhere i see

i hate crushes
i've got nothing to wear
fuck crushes
i just want you to stare

i hate crushes
can you give me a sjgn?
fuck crushes
will you ever be mine?

i hate crushes
am i even enough?
fuck crushes
why won't you give me your love?

i'm getting a fever
is it a dream?
i hope i don't see you
cos my hair isn't clean

i'm getting a fever
is it a dream?
why do you consume me?
you're everywhere i see

dear diary,
so i saw you today
i practised what i would say
but you didn't even look my way

i was just wondering, do you kiss all your friends like that?
when i saw you together i nearly had a heart attack.

anyway, I'm sure it was nothing
i'll see you tomorrow
time to grab another drink and drown my fucking sorrows

god i hope you never read this

i'm getting a fever
is it a dream?
i hope i don't see you
cos my hair isn't clean

i'm getting a fever
is it a dream?
why do you consume me?
you're everywhere i see

i'm getting a fever
i'm sick of this dream
can't do this any longer
fucking my self esteem

i'm getting a fever
i'm sick of this dream
won't let you consume me
you'd be lucky to have me

KEEPING RIOT GRRRL ALIVE!!

Pinch Point

Obituaries